

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### DeBourgh Mfg

Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology

#### DeBourgh Manufacturing Increases Production Capacity by 25 Percent

##### Client Profile:

DeBourgh Manufacturing is a family-owned and operated business started in 1909. Throughout the last century, DeBourgh fabricated a variety of metal products from pedestrian bridges to construction equipment to lockers, in Bloomington Minnesota. In 1989, faced by shrinking of the metal fabrication unit and rising overhead, DeBourgh moved the business to La Junta, Colorado to focus solely on locker manufacturing. The company employs 120 people.

##### Situation:

DeBourgh embarked on an aggressive five-year growth plan and needed to ensure the expected increase in demand could be met. The manufacturing facility was virtually at capacity, and as orders increased they were forced to implement mandatory overtime of each employee. DeBourgh needed outside help to reorganize manufacturing processes to free up capacity and lighten the stress load of its workforce. They contacted the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

##### Solution:

CAMT provided an introductory course in the basic principles of Lean Manufacturing for all DeBourgh employees. Then a vast majority of plant floor associates participated in 5S training, and several departments worked on reducing the changeover and down time of primary manufacturing machines. CAMT also helped to establish a visual plant floor using visual devices to inform manufacturing processes. As a result of CAMT's help, DeBourgh's shop floor is better organized to accelerate an efficient flow of their processes through departments. Several changes were implemented such as facility layout and inventory storage. Previously, DeBourgh stored work in progress in different stages on racks in multiple locations across the production floor. To facilitate decreased material handling, in addition to wasted employee movement and time, mobile carts were built to allow associates simply move and stage the parts at the next process without intermittent storage. Several machines were moved closer together to facilitate this solution. These implementations have resulted in a manageable workload and more satisfied employees.

##### Results:

- \* Invested \$150,000 in plant equipment.
- \* Reduced overtime hours by 33 percent.
- \* Increased production capacity by 25 to 35 percent.
- \* Created 15 new jobs.

##### Testimonial:

[www.mep.nist.gov](http://www.mep.nist.gov)



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"Using Lean, we were able to shine a spotlight on the bottlenecks and problem areas holding up our processes. We no longer have inventory hiding our problems and can more easily identify future constraints before they happen."

Jorgen Salo, Vice President of Operations